**CAIRNS**

We will begin our journey with an introduction to the biodiversity and conservation of the unique fragility of the tropics of Australia Cairns the city in the far North of Queensland Australia. This city is nestled in the heart of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Wet Tropics rainforest, it sets up our trip perfectly.

**May 23**

Orientation, and city tour.

**May 24**

You will encounter the wide range of uniquely Australian wildlife being protected at the Cairns Zoo. Greet and hold the iconic koala and wombats the uniquely Australian marsupials. We will visit with the Zookeepers to discuss the different breeding programs and conservation efforts of this wildlife park. And of course this will be your first viewing of the largest and most ferocious saltwater crocodiles, and the exotic cassowary. As we move on in the course you will see these wild animals in their natural habitats.

**May 25**

Explore a place that time has passed by in the scenic mountains high above the shimmering waters of the Great Barrier Reef. Taking a skyrail gondola that you will descend through the canopy layers of the tropical rainforest and take you deep in the woods. In the evening you will be introduced the numerous species of fish and coral, through a unique program in Cairns.

**May 26**

Fitzroy Island is a beautiful 6000 year old coral cay located in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – a premier world heritage site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. This is a wonderful place for your first of many visits to the crystal clear turquoise waters of the reef. We will spend the day reef snorkeling or glass bottom boat, plus have guided tour of the unique beaches and rainforest on this island.
DAINTREE TROPICAL RAINFOREST

May 27 Daintree Tropical Rainforest: World Heritage

Experience the rainforest at every level; from the forest floor to the upper most reaches of the canopy. From the top of the 23 metre high Canopy Tower you can check out spectacular orchids and you might just spot a python curled up in a giant basket fern. When the figs are ripening you can photograph Double-eyed Fig Parrots feeding in the top of the trees. The spectacular Aerial Walkway provides unprecedented access to the mid level rainforest. A great place to watch for the gorgeous Buff Breasted Kingfisher or the colourful Cassowary with a clutch of chicks.

May 28 Daintree Tropical Rainforest

Coopers Creek Wilderness: We will explore the biodiversity of the mangroves and swamp that line the tropical rainforest by the reef. And we will go on a Crocodile cruise to see them up close and person, but not too personal, and learn about their conservation.

May 29 Daintree Tropical Rainforest:

We will help with the restoration of rainforest to increase habitat for the endangered species the cassowary. And learn about importance of tourism is to the rain forest, and Jungle surf the canopy.

May 30 Indigenous Perspective of the Tropical Rainforest

Exploration of the walking trails
Kuku Yalanji Dreamtime Walk – rainforest walk with indigenous guide and discussion afterwards.

Return to Cairns

May 31 Great Barrier Reef: The Outer Reef

Lizard Island Nature Reserve

We will snorkel and explore of the outer reef and take a helicopter flight to see the reef from the best perspective

FRASER ISLAND in the GREAT BARRIER REEF

June 1 Fraser Island: Introduction to the Biodiversity of this World Heritage Site

Introduction to the amazing wildlife on this island in the great barrier reef. Over 40,000 birds migrate here and it is home to, vulnerable or endangered species include dugongs, turtles, Illidge's ant-blue butterflies and eastern curlews.

June 2 Exploring the diverse ecosystems and biodiversity of Fraser Island

4WD Excursion exploring some of the 26 different ecosystems present on this island Including exploring the “Wallum” one of the most endangered habitats. And you will go swimming in the freshwater
June 3 Learning the Aboriginal Perspective of the land on Fraser Island

Canoeing the Mangroves

Butchulla Walk -- K'Gari, meaning paradise, is the Aboriginal name for Fraser Island. Learn about Butchulla legends and culture. See the remains in the sand dunes, discuss the legend of Fraser Island's formation, taste bush tucker, and learn about the roles of men, women and children in Aboriginal clans.
Day 13 June 4 Fraser Island: World Heritage Site

4WD Excursion exploring some of the 26 different ecosystems present on this island

Drive along Fraser Island's sand tracks to Central Station, a former forestry camp, with an excellent interpretive centre. Your guide will talk about the rainforest and the exotic rare King Ferns - a species that dates back to Jurassic times.

Day 14 June 5 Sydney. Dinner together and Celebration.

Day 15 June 6 Departure